Honorary Colonelcy of the Indian Army on His Highness, and on the birth of a Princess to Her Highness the Senior Ranee. I shall also convey your congratulations to the Dewan on the conferment of the title of C. S. I. on him.

In regard to the excess cost recovered from the parties on account of theodolite stones as also the cost of their transmission and planting, the Land Revenue Commissioner will be asked to look into the matter. As regards the planting of theodolite stones, I may say that, under Rule 4 of the L. R. M. Rules, the owners of the adjoining lands have to take care of them and plant them.

Member.—How can we take care of them ? It is rather hard to lay the duty upon the owners of adjoining lands. Even the Treasury which is strongly protected by iron bars is sometimes not free from thefts.

President.—The rule is to that effect.

Member.—What I say is that such a rule should be cancelled.

President.—The matter will be looked into.

The Land Records Superintendent says that all the theodolite instruments issued to his staff are in sound condition.

Then you refer to the irregularities of the subordinate officers of the Land Records Department. I may tell you for your information that about 40 accountants have been dismissed and some of the Assistant Tahsildars have been reverted for bad work and inefficiency. Stringent instructions will again be issued to the officers concerned for working the rules properly.

11. Registry of puduval lands in favour of the Hindu depressed classes.

Mr. Kurumpan Daivattan (Member, Nominated) spoke about the difficulties experienced by members of the Hindu depressed classes in getting lands registered in their names. The Government with the best of intentions had ordered the registry of lands to the members of the depressed classes on concessional terms. But there were several impediments to their enjoying the benefits intended by the Government. In his opening Address, the Dewan had himself stated that, out of an extent of 18,986 acres of land ear-marked for registry in favour of the depressed classes, only 1,028 acres had been registered. Lists of lands ear-marked for the purpose were being published only in some of the *pakuthi* and taluk cutcherries. Many of the lands ear-marked were unprofitable lands which would not be bid for, if sold in auction. The members of the depressed classes could not compete with others in securing profitable lands because of their poverty and consequently they had to be satisfied with the lands ear-marked for them. These people, he said, were essentially a labouring class sunk in poverty who could not even lead a hand-to-mouth existence with the earnings of their labour. From such a deplorable condition, the Government alone could uplift them. He therefore prayed that the following lands might be registered in the names of the members of the Pulaya and other depressed classes at an early date with a view to ameliorate their condition.

(1) An extent of about 309 acres of land in the Nedumpanakkal *pakuthi*, Quilon taluk. The Member said that the taluk authorities having notified these lands for registry, applications were made to them; but he understood that steps were in progress for the registry of only 17 acres.

(2) An extent of 100 acres of land comprised in survey No. 295/1 of the Kottarakara *pakuthi*, Kottarakara taluk. The land was surveyed, but no proceedings for assignment were started. The Member said that he understood from the Revenue officers that such proceedings could be started only after a subdivision survey of the big blocks in which the lands in question were comprised.

(3) The *kavus* belonging to Pulayas in the Pattanapuram taluk should be transferred from *poramboke* and registered in the names of the respective worshippers.

(4) An extent of 25 acres of land comprised in survey No. 777/1 of the Kanni *pakuthi*, Pattanamtitta taluk, and 3,300 acres of swampy land in the above *pakuthi* constituting the Arikkakkavu and Kattachiraman swamps.

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(5) The available lands near the Illichira and the Naluchira in the Purakkad *pakuthi*, Ambalapuzha taluk.

(6) The available lands in Vechur *kari* in the Vaikam taluk and the *kayal porambokes* in the Shertallai taluk.

(7) The lands proposed to be disafforested from the Valiakavu and Alapara Reserves.

He said that the Co-operative Societies of his community had applied for the registry of the lands under item No. 4 above. The Member also prayed that, whenever high officers went on tour to Chengannur, Aranmula, Alwaye and other places, they might be instructed to make enquiries about the welfare of the depressed classes.

12 Grievances of the Cheramar Community as regards securing puduval lands.

Mr. Paradi Abraham Isaac (Member, Nominated), in dealing with the grievances of the depressed classes as regards the registry of *puduval* lands, said that the economic condition of the depressed classes was very deplorable. The major portion of them were tenants at will liable to eviction from their holdings at the whim and caprice of their landlords. In his view, the depressed classes could make progress in society only if they were given lands of their own. Although the Government had allowed the registry of three acres of land to each family of the depressed classes, there was much difficulty in getting such lands registered. The Proverthicars were generally unsympathetic towards them and they only cared to favour well-to-do persons. Whenever good lands were applied for by the depressed classes, the Proverthicars raised all sorts of objections, with the result that the depressed classes were able to get only uncultivable lands, and even those only with much difficulty. The Tahsildars were unable to mend matters, as they were, in most cases, guided by the reports of the Proverthicars. Whenever members of the depressed classes occupied Government lands and effected improvements thereon, they were evicted from those places and asked to select lands at the rate of three acres for each family from the lands car-marked for them. The Member said that it would be very hard if the people of one particular locality were asked to shift to another. He also pointed out that in some taluks such as Tovala, Agastisvaram, Shencottah, Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli, Ambalapuzha, Shertallai, Vaikam, and Parur, the only lands available for registry were tank and backwater *porambokes* which the Government had ordered to be disposed of in auction in view of their great value. Consequently, the members of the depressed classes were unable to get concessional registries in those taluks.

Another hardship experienced by the members of the depressed classes was that there was an impression on the part of the Revenue subordinates that, as soon as a person got a concessional grant of three acres of land or ten cents on the sea coast, he became altogether ineligible for getting any more *puduval* lands in the State. He said that the depressed classes should be given other *puduval* lands also if they were prepared to pay *tharavila* and other dues and that this right should not be denied to them on the ground that they were eligible for registry of lands on concessional terms subject to an area limit. Orders should be issued disabusing the minds of the officers of this wrong impression. The Member next said that large blocks of land were unnecessarily set apart as grazing reserves ; but whenever rich people effected improvements thereon, the improved portions were being registered in their names. He also stated that large areas of *kanippattu* lands were available for assignment, but that well-to-do persons often purchased the lands from the Kanikars and effected improvements thereon and thereby prevented the depressed classes from applying for such lands.

Lastly, he said that most of the wet lands in the State had become the property of the advanced communities and the depressed classes who worked for them had to give the lion's share of the produce to their landlords. In view to better their condition and provide wet lands for them, the Member prayed that the wet lands disafforested from the reserved forests of the State might be registered in the names of Co-operative Societies for the depressed classes and that they might be given house-sites also. The Member stated that the depressed classes would be willing to pay *tharavila* for such lands in seven yearly instalments.

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